ATTACHMENT C

MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER RESEARCH DESIGN SUMMARY FORM INSTRUCTIONS

This form was designed to elicit the most important features of the proposed research designs for Mentally Ill Offender Grant programs. Please refer to these instructions when completing the **Mentally Ill Offender Grant: Research Design Summary Form**. To avoid confusion, we suggest the following terminology:

- **Program**: "Program" refers to a defined set of interventions that will be given to a specified research sample in order to evaluate well-stated hypotheses. A different set of interventions given to a different research sample in order to evaluate other hypotheses would be a different Program. You can propose more than one Program. For example, you might study the effectiveness in reducing recidivism of an aftercare program as Program 1, and the evaluation of a counseling program for inmates as Program 2 (in this case, you would have two separate Programs; therefore, you would conduct two separate research evaluation studies).
- **Research Design**: "Research Design" refers to the procedures that you will use to test the hypothesis that your Program produces a positive outcome. Our preferred design is called a "true experimental design." The main feature of this design is: random assignment of subjects to a treatment and comparison group from the same pool of potential research subjects. We will also accept quasi-experimental designs that satisfy the technical requirements for such designs. Of course, one could propose more than one design to evaluate a Program. For example, one could conduct a true experimental design and a quasi-experimental design to evaluate the effectiveness of an intensive supervision Program.
- **Project**: "Project" refers to all the work that you propose to do with Mentally Ill Offender Grant funds. For example, if you are proposing to do two Programs and two evaluation research designs for each Program, the entire effort would constitute your Mentally Ill Offender Grant Project.

For each proposed Program and each proposed research design per Program, please complete a Mentally Ill Offender: Research Design Summary Form (if you are proposing two Programs and two research designs for each Program, you would complete four Summary Forms to describe the four separate designs). To complete the form, you can put your comments or requested information in the spaces provided, or you can put the information on a separate sheet. If you use a separate sheet, indicate the topic to which you are responding.

1. **Program Name**: MIOCR Grant participants may find it useful to pick a name that helps them to create a Program identity. Indicate the title you will be using to refer to your Program.
2. **Treatment Interventions**: Describe the components of your Program that you will be evaluating. Another way of saying this is, "Describe how the 'treatment' subjects (those in the Program) will be treated differently than the comparison subjects (e.g.,

more intensive supervision, more thorough assessment, a wider range of services, more aggressive case management, better aftercare, etc.)

3. **Research Design**: Describe the research design that you will be using. Issues to be addressed here include the name of the design (e.g., true experimental design), the use of random assignment, and any special features that you will include in the design (e.g., the type of comparison group you will use for quasi-experimental designs).
4. **Cost/Benefit Analysis**: Indicate by circling "yes" or "no" whether you will be conducting a Program cost/benefit analysis that includes at least: a) the cost per subject of providing the interventions to the treatment and comparison groups; b) the cost savings to your county represented by the effectiveness of the treatment interventions; and c) your assessment of the program's future (e.g., it will continue as is, be changed significantly, be dropped) given the results of the cost/benefit analysis.
5. **Target Population**: This refers to the criteria that treatment and comparison subjects must meet in order to be able to participate in the research. Target criteria might include: age, gender, diagnostic category, legal history, geographical area of residence, etc.
6. **Sample Size**: This refers to the number of subjects who will participate in the treatment and comparison samples during the entire course of the research. Of course, in any applied research program, subjects drop out for various reasons (e.g., moving out of the county, failure to complete the program, etc). In addition, there will probably be subjects who participate in the Programs you will be researching and not be part of the research sample (e.g., they may not meet one or more of the criteria for participation in the research). Indicate the number of subjects who will <u>complete</u> the treatment interventions or comparison group interventions, <u>plus</u> any post-treatment follow up period. This also will be the number of subjects that you will be including in your statistical hypothesis testing to evaluate the Program outcomes. Sum the treatment and comparison subjects and indicate the total.
7. **Key Dates**:
   - "Program Operational" is the date that the first treatment subject will start in the Program.
   - "Final Treatment Completion" is the date when the last treatment subject in the research sample will finish the interventions that constitute the Program (and before the start of the follow up period).
   - "Final Follow Up Data" is the date when the last follow-up data will be gathered on a research subject (e.g., six months after the last subject completes the treatment interventions or whenever these data will become available).
9. **Matching Criteria**: This category may not apply if you are using a true experimental design. Nevertheless, even if you are not going to use matching, but rather periodically check on the comparability of the treatment and comparison groups, please indicate the variables that you will be reviewing to assess comparability. Matching criteria might include: age, gender, ethnicity, etc.
10. **Comparison Group**: The intent here is to document the kind of comparison group you will be using. If you are using a true experimental design, the comparison group will be randomly selected from the same subject pool as the treatment subjects. However, for quasi-experimental designs, the comparison group might come from a number of different sources such as: matched geographical areas, other matched

counties, a matched historical group, etc. Indicate the source of your comparison group. If you are using a true experimental design, simply write "true experimental design."

11. **Assessment Process**: The intent here is to summarize the major features of the assessment process that will determine the nature of the intervention that the subjects in the treatment group will receive. For example, indicate any standardized risk assessment tool, whether you will be using psychological testing and the type of testing, and whether or not the assessment will be multiagency and multidisciplinary.
12. **Treatment Group Eligibility**: Indicate the process by which subjects will be selected into the pool from which treatment subjects will be chosen. This process might include: referral by a judge, referral by a law enforcement officer, a certain type of adjudication, etc.
13. **Comparison Group Eligibility**: Indicate the process by which subjects will be selected into the pool from which comparison subjects will be chosen. For true experimental designs, this process will be the same as for treatment subjects.
14. **Outcome Variables**: List some of the most important outcome variables that you are hypothesizing will be positively affected by your Program. Possibilities include: improvement in psychological condition, arrests, recidivism, ability to live independently, etc.
15. **Score/Scale**: To “measure” the effects produced by your Program, you must put the variable in question on some sort of measuring scale (e.g., a test score, a count of occurrences, a rating scale, a change score indicating education achievement progress). For each variable for which you are making a hypothesis, indicate the measurement that you will be statistically analyzing when you test your hypothesis.
16. **Additional Information**: To explain more fully how you intend to test your hypothesis, you might find it helpful to supply additional information. For example, you might intend to partition the data by gender or make differential hypotheses for different age ranges. Supplying “additional information” is optional; however, if there is some aspect of the hypothesis testing that is important for us to know about, please supply it in this section.
17. **Significance Test**: In order for a statistical procedure to be the appropriate test of a particular hypothesis, certain assumptions must be met. It is critical at the outset of a research design to make sure that the measuring devices, measuring scales, samples, and methodology produce the kind of data that fit the requirements of the intended statistical procedure. In this section, please list your choice for the most appropriate statistical procedure for the testing of your hypothesis, given the research design you have chosen, the measurement you will use, and the data you will be collecting.